

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 RSR-01 /117 W

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R 141456 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9237

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10469

POUCH: BORDEAUX, LYON, MARSEILLE, NICE, STRASBOURG, MARTINIQUE

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV FR

SUBJ: NEW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE, AYMAR ACHILLE FOULD.

1. AYMAR ACHILLE FOULD, DEPUTY FROM GIRONDE, HAS BEEN NAMED SECSTATE IN ARMED FORCES MINISTRY. THIS APPOINTMENT IS ACHILLE FOULD'S FIRST GOVERNMENTAL OFFICE. USUALLY SECSTATES ARE APPOINTED NOT AS ACROSS THE BOARD DEPUTIES TO MINISTERS BUT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. THERE IS NO INDICATION, AS YET, OF THE AREA FOR WHICH ACHILLE FOULD WILL BE RESPONSIBLE AT DEFENSE.

2. SCION OF AN OLD, WEALTHY, POLITICAL FRENCH FAMILY, ACHILLE
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FOULD WAS BORN IN 1925. HE SERVED IN THE FRENCH NAVY FROM 1943 THROUGH 1949 AND SPENT SOME OF THAT TIME IN INDOCHINA. FROM 1949 UNTIL HE BEGAN HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN 1961, HE WAS ON THE BOARDS OF A NUMBER OF FAMILY COMPANIES, WITH INTERESTS IN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY NIGERIA, AND IN VINEYARDS (ACHILLE FOULD'S CONSTITUENCY INCLUDES PART OF THE BORDEAUX REGION. HE CONTINUES ACTIVE IN THESE BUSINESSES. ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1962, HE HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED REGULARLY SINCE. HE BELONGS TO THE UNION CENTRISTE, THE MOST LIBERAL, AS WELL AS THE SMALLEST, OF THE THREE COALITION PARTNERS.

3. ACHILLE FOULD HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING PRO-AMERICAN. HE IS ALSO KNOWN TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE ISRAELI POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. DURING THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR HE WAS ONE OF THOSE WHO OPPOSED FRANCE'S POLICY WHICH FAVORED BIAFRA BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS DOOMED TO FAIL. ACHILLE FOULD KNOWS THE UNITED STATES WELL AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS10469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730443/aaaaipbr.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980120
Subject: NEW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE, AYMAR ACHILLE FOULD.
TAGS: PGOV, FR
To: BONN
EUR
MULTIPLE
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005